

- What types of visitor services are appropriately provided at the park and where are the most appropriate locations for them?

A new GMP is needed to create a management framework from which future park managers can implement programs that preserve, protect, and interpret park resources and give everyone with a major stake in the park an opportunity to participate in the development of this framework.

## Planning Team

The Carl Sandburg Home NHS GMP was conducted by an interdisciplinary team of park managers and technical experts in consultation with the general public and other knowledgeable persons inside and outside the National Park Service. Planning team members, technical advisors, and other significant contributors are listed in Chapter V, Consultation and Coordination.

## Park Mission

Each unit of the national park system is provided guidance for how it is to be managed by the Presidential proclamation or Congressional legislation that authorizes and establishes it. The Presidential or Congressional intent for a park unit is further interpreted by the park and expressed as its mission.

Park mission contains three kinds of statements: mission, purpose, and significance, which collectively provide the foundation for sound decision-making at the park. Park mission statements for Carl Sandburg Home NHS were reviewed and refined as part of the general management planning process.

## Mission Statement

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is dedicated to preserving the legacy of Carl Sandburg and communicating the stories of his works, life, and significance as an American poet, writer, historian, biographer of Abraham Lincoln, and social activist. Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site preserves and interprets the farm, Connemara, where Sandburg and his family lived for the last 22 years of his life (1945-1967).

## Purpose Statements

The purpose of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is:

- to carry on the legacy of Carl Sandburg's works and life for the benefit of future generations through preservation, interpretation, education, and inspiration.
- to preserve Carl Sandburg's last home, associated structures and landscape, original furnishings, personal belongings, and library.

## Significance Statements

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is significant because:

- the site is where one of America's most versatile and recognized writers completed a literary career that captured and recorded America's traditions, struggles, and dreams in his poetry, histories, biographies, novels, and folk songs. Sandburg relentlessly advocated for social justice and his writings reflect a deep respect for people as individuals.
- the home, associated buildings, farm scene, wooded hills, and gardens of Connemara embody the presence of Carl Sandburg more vividly than any other place he lived.
- the museum collection which preserves Carl Sandburg's personal belongings, furnishings, farm equipment, library, and papers, provides a unique and rare perspective of this American author's lifestyle, philosophy, intellectual pursuits, and life experiences.

## Carl Sandburg Home NHS GMP Planning Process

The GMP process at Carl Sandburg Home NHS is being conducted in four phases:

- Scoping
- Development and Analysis of Alternatives
- Preparation and publication of a draft general management plan/environmental impact statement
- Revision and publication of a final general management plan/environmental impact statement

## Scoping

Information about the broad range of potential ideas, goals, and objectives that park staff, technical experts, current and potential visitors, other governmental agencies, traditional users, regional residents, and the general public want the park to achieve was gathered in a process called "Scoping". Scoping occurred continuously throughout the planning process.

The broad range of goals and objectives identified during the scoping process are generally referred to as "Planning Issues" and are examined in greater detail in the *Discussion of Planning Issues* section of this chapter.

## Development and Analysis of Alternatives

As might be expected, some of the ideas and information different people wished included as an aspect of this GMP were mutually compatible and others were not. Working in conjunction with its many partners, the planning team drew upon information gathered during scoping to formulate a

range of management alternatives that both satisfied park mission and incorporated as many ideas as possible. Each potential alternative was rigorously analyzed and refined over time by the planning team as part of the planning process.

A preferred alternative was selected using the Choosing by Advantages (CBA) decision-making process. A more detailed description of the selection and environmental analysis process is provided in subsequent chapters.

### Draft Plan

This document represents the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement. Your thoughts and comments are welcomed and can be transmitted to the park superintendent using the contact information shown in the abstract of this document and Chapter 5.

### Final Plan

After the official comment period for the draft plan has expired and the draft document is updated to reflect any additional public input, a final general management plan and environmental impact statement will be prepared and made available for public review.

## Special Mandates, Laws, and Policies

All decisions made through general management planning must fit within the broad parameters established by: 1) the park's particular mission and mission goals; 2) any special mandates or commitments that may apply to the park; and 3) the large body of laws and policy applicable to all units of the national park system. The purpose of this section is to clarify and articulate the parameters established by special mandates, administrative commitments, and service-wide laws and policy.

### Special mandates

Special mandates are park specific. Planning teams are instructed by NPS policy to look for them in the park's establishing legislation. In this case, the establishing legislation, as amended, for Carl Sandburg Home NHS (Appendix A) does not provide specific direction for managing the site.

Administrative commitments are generally defined as agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes with other Federal or state agencies that refer to the co-management of specific natural or cultural resources. The park has a long standing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Theater of North Carolina (Flat Rock Playhouse) that allows the use of each others parking areas for overflow parking. All alternatives will assume the continuation of this mutually beneficial arrangement.

A MOU with the Blue Ridge Parkway provides Carl Sandburg Home NHS with one law enforcement ranger. Provision of the ranger is contingent on staff availability at Blue Ridge Parkway and availability of funds at Carl Sandburg Home NHS to pay related expenses. Historically, a law enforcement ranger is provided one or two days per week and at special events where many visitors are expected. All alternatives would add a full time law enforcement ranger to the Sandburg staff. The current MOU would be continued until a ranger was hired.

All alternatives would continue to honor the existing MOUs with the Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue and Valley Hill Fire Department that provide fire and rescue emergency services to the park.

### Service-wide laws and policy

Management of national park system units is guided by numerous congressional acts and executive orders. The NPS has also established policies for managing the units under its stewardship. Much of basic good park management is specified in laws and policies and in all but the most extraordinary circumstances, planning approaches that fall outside of existing laws and policies are not considered in general management planning. While a detailed discussion of laws and policies affecting park management is beyond the scope of this document, those that most significantly influenced the development of alternatives are described under the following topics:

- Visitor experience and use
- Management of cultural and natural resources
- Visitor and employee safety
- Actions outside the park

#### Visitor experience and use

Enjoyment of park resources and values by the people of the United States is a part of the fundamental purpose of all parks. Current service-wide laws and policies require that the following visitor experience and use conditions be achieved at the park (Sources: NPS Organic Act, 2001 NPS Management Policies, Americans with Disabilities Act, Architectural Barriers Act, and Rehabilitation Act).

- Visitors will have opportunities to enjoy the park in ways that leave park resources unimpaired for future generations.
- Visitors will understand and appreciate park values and resources and have the information necessary to adapt to the park environments.
- Opportunities for forms of enjoyment that are uniquely suited and appropriate to the superlative natural and cultural resources will be provided in the park .

- Visitors will have access to activities that are inspirational, educational, healthful, and otherwise appropriate to the park environment. A broad range of visitor experiences will be available including opportunities for structured educational and interpretive programs as well as personalized experiences that do not require the formality of program or structure.
- Basic visitor needs will be met in keeping with the park purposes.
- All people of the United States, that is, people who directly experience the preserve and those who appreciate it by afar may derive benefit (including scientific knowledge) and inspiration from the preserve, as well as other forms of enjoyment.
- Park recreational uses will be promoted and regulated. A wide range of techniques are considered when managing recreational uses to avoid adverse impacts on park resources and values, or desired visitor experiences. Examples of appropriate techniques include visitor information and educational programs, separation of conflicting uses by time or location, hardening sites, modifying maintenance practices, and permit and reservation systems.
- To the extent feasible, facilities, programs, and services in the park are accessible to and usable by all people, including those with disabilities.

Planning Parameters: Laws, regulations, and policies provide specific guidance about visitor use but leave some room for judgment regarding the best mix of types and levels of visitor use activities, programs, and facilities. The alternatives presented and evaluated in this draft general management plan represent several approaches to providing quality visitor experiences within the given parameters.

In each alternative, the National Park Service will take the following kinds of actions to meet legal and policy requirements related to visitor experience and park use:

- Provide a wide range of opportunities for visitors to understand, appreciate, and enjoy park resources in ways that leave them unimpaired for future generations.
- Manage recreational uses to promote high quality visitor experiences and avoid impacts on park resources and values.
- Ensure that all park programs and facilities are accessible to the extent feasible.

#### Management of Cultural Resources

The National Park Service is steward of many of America's most important cultural resources. Cultural resources are

categorized as archeological resources, cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources, historic and prehistoric structures, and museum collections. Current service-wide laws and policies require that the following cultural resource management conditions be achieved at the park (Sources: NPS Organic Act, National Historic Preservation Act, 2001 NPS Management Policies, DO-28: Cultural Resources Management, and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties).

- The National Park Service will employ the most effective concepts, techniques, and equipment to protect cultural resources against theft, fire, vandalism, overuse, deterioration, environmental impacts, and other threats without compromising the integrity of the resources.
- The National Park Service will provide for the long-term preservation of, public access to, and appreciation of the features, materials, and qualities contributing to the significance of cultural resources.
- The treatment of cultural landscapes will preserve significant physical attributes, biotic systems, and uses when those uses contribute to historical significance. Treatment decisions and implementation procedures will be based on sound preservation practices to enable long-term preservation of a resource's historic features, qualities, and materials.
- Contemporary alterations and additions to a cultural landscape must not change, obscure, or destroy its significant spatial organization, materials, and features.
- The National Park Service will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects specimens, and archival and manuscript collections to aid understanding among park visitors and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences.
- When historic furnishings are present in their original arrangement in a historic structure, every effort will be made to preserve them as an entity. They will not be moved or replaced unless required for their protection or repair, or unless the structure is designated for another use in an approved planning document.
- Archival and manuscript collections are museum collections and will be preserved, arranged, catalogued, and described in finding aids. They will be maintained and used in ways that preserve the collections and their context intact while providing controlled access. Archival and manuscript collections will be available to researchers unless specifically prohibited by law.
- Notwithstanding the specific purposes for which the park was established, park will be prepared to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

in event of inadvertent discovery of human remains in course of any earth disturbing activities.

**Planning Parameters:** Laws, regulations, and policies provide specific guidance about managing cultural resources. In each alternative, the National Park Service will take the following kinds of actions to meet legal and policy requirements related to cultural resource management:

- Provide for public access and appreciation of the park's cultural resources without compromising their historic integrity or ability to be preserved unimpaired for future generations.

#### Management of Natural Resources

The National Park Service strives to understand, maintain, restore, and protect the inherent integrity of the natural resources, processes, systems, and values of a park. Current service-wide laws and policies require that the following natural resource management conditions be achieved at the park (Sources: NPS Organic Act, National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, 2001 NPS Management Policies, DO-77 Natural Resource Protection).

- Natural resources will be maintained in an unimpaired condition for the enjoyment of future generations.
- Natural systems and the human influences upon them be monitored to detect change and appropriate management actions developed to preserve these resources for the enjoyment of future generations.
- Environmental costs and benefits of proposed operations, development, and resource management will be fully and openly evaluated before taking actions that may impact natural resources.

**Planning Parameters:** Laws, regulations, and policies provide specific guidance about managing natural resources. In each alternative, the National Park Service will take the following kinds of actions to meet legal and policy requirements related to natural resource management:

- The park's natural resources will be actively managed to maintain and preserve the fundamental physical and biological processes, individual species, features, and plant and animal communities the park ecosystem for the enjoyment of future generations.

#### Visitor and Employee Safety

The NPS has a continuing concern about the health and safety of its employees and others who spend time in the parks – whether as visitors, volunteers, contractors, concession employees, or in any other capacity. Those who participate in work or recreational activities in the parks are always, to some

extent, exposed to the risk of accident, injury, or illness. In recognizing this, the NPS is committed to reducing these risks and the associated pain, suffering, and financial expense. Current service-wide laws and policies require that the following visitor and employee safety conditions be achieved in the park (Source: NPS Organic Act, 2001 NPS Management Policies, DO-83: Public Health, DO-50b: Occupational Safety and Health).

- While recognizing that there are limitations on its capability to totally eliminate all hazards, the NPS and its concessioners will seek to provide a safe and healthful environment for visitors and employees
- Acknowledging that all recreation activities pose a certain degree of risk which the NPS cannot totally control, visitors must assume a substantial degree of risk and responsibility for their own safety when visiting areas that are managed and maintained as natural, cultural, or recreational environments.
- Provide a safe and healthful place of employment, and protect Federal and private property from accidental damage or loss associated with NPS operations.
- Protect the health and well-being of NPS employees and park visitors through the elimination or control of disease agents and the various means of their transmission to man and to ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, and local public health laws, regulations, and ordinances. Implementation of this policy will be tempered by the Organic Act's requirement that the NPS conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and wildlife therein in such a manner and by such a means that will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

**Planning Parameters:** The National Park Service will take the following kinds of actions to meet legal and policy requirements related to visitor and employee safety at the park.

- National Park Service will provide as safe and healthful environment for visitors, contractors, and employees as possible recognizing potential limitations given its overarching requirement to conserve the park's cultural and natural resources unimpaired.
- National Park Service will provide as safe and healthful environment for visitors, contractors, and employees as possible recognizing potential limitations due to available funding and staffing and the risks associated with certain recreational activities.

#### Actions outside Carl Sandburg Home NHS

Ecological processes cross park boundaries, and park boundaries may not incorporate all of the natural resources, cultural sites, and scenic vistas that relate to park resources or

the quality of visitor experience. Therefore, activities proposed for adjacent lands may significantly affect park programs, resources, and values. Conversely, NPS activities may have impacts outside park boundaries. Current service-wide laws and policies require that the following conditions related to outside actions be achieved in the park (Source: NPS Organic Act, 2001 NPS Management Policies).

- Recognizing that parks are integral parts of larger regional environments, NPS will work cooperatively with others to anticipate, avoid, and resolve potential conflicts; protect park resources and values; provide for visitor enjoyment; and address mutual interests in the quality of life of community residents, including matters such as economic development and resource and environmental protection
- Superintendents will be aware of and monitor land use proposals and changes to adjacent lands and their potential impacts. They will also seek to encourage compatible adjacent land uses to avoid or to mitigate potential adverse effects.

**Planning Parameters:** The National Park Service will take the following kinds of actions to meet legal and policy requirements related to relationships with non NPS agencies or actions outside of the park.

- Resources outside the park will be monitored and owners or stewards of those resources encouraged to manage them in such a way that park resources will be safeguarded
- NPS will work cooperatively with others to anticipate, avoid, and resolve potential conflicts and address mutual interests

## Discussion of Planning Issues

Planning issues are derived from an examination of the full range of comments and ideas solicited from park staff, other agencies, special interest groups, and the general public during scoping. An understanding of the park mission and important planning issues helped the planning team develop potential management alternatives that respond to current and future resource and visitor experience conditions.

The following paragraphs summarize the full range of planning issues identified during scoping. The range of issues falls generally into two categories: A) Comments most appropriately addressed by a GMP, and B) Comments most appropriately addressed by other plans. Comments discussed within these two broad categories are further subdivided into groups according to the general topic they address. A short discussion and recommendation follows each comment group so the reader might derive additional insight into how particular groups of comments were interpreted and used to formulate the alternative management concepts.

### Comments most appropriately addressed by a GMP:

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about the historic integrity of the site.

1. Site should remain as original and untouched as possible.
2. Site should look just like Sandburg left it - and reflect his and his family's unique personalities.
3. Historic nature of the landscape is very important to an overall enjoyable visitor experience.
4. The park is an important connection point for local people with their local history - its more important than a community park to many local visitors.
5. Historic nature of the park should be preserved

**Discussion:** Public and staff response is overwhelmingly in agreement about the need to protect the special Sandburg ambiance of the site. There is, however, a relatively wide range of opinion about the most appropriate methods to preserve and enhance a visitor's ability to connect with the historic character of the site.

**Planning Guidance:** Management alternatives proposed in this GMP must not include recommendations that compromise the integrity of the historic scene. While it is understood that the proposed alternatives may differ in their conceptual approaches, each alternative must recognize and protect the special historic ambiance of the site.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about recreational use of the park.

1. Recreation use is important to local residents.
2. Residents use park for recreational activities because they feel safe there.
3. Greenway tie-in is important and should be incorporated and supported.
4. Horse/bridal trails could be constructed at the park.
5. Park needs more picnic areas.
6. Would like to see a perimeter trail.
7. Would like to walk on a trail through the fields.
8. Recreation use is important use of the park and to some it is more important than the Sandburg story.
9. County and local governments may rely too strongly on park to provide recreation opportunity for local citizens.
10. Need more walking trails.
11. Need to construct more bird watching / nature trails.
12. Would like to see bike trails included at the park

**Discussion:** More people live near the park than ever before and, consequently, a significant increase in recreational activity has occurred. Not surprisingly, many comments about

improving or expanding opportunities for recreational use were recorded during scoping.

There is concern by park staff and some members of the general public that uncontrolled recreational use could permanently change the historic character of park. In addition, many park staff and volunteers feel their commitment to the mission of the park would be compromised by accommodating unlimited recreational activity. While a historic precedent for walking and hiking exists at the site, the impacts of some types of recreational activity are seen as an intrusion on the historic scene by visitors who come to the park for a Sandburg-related experience.

Planning Guidance: Proposed management alternatives must have a strategy to manage recreation use. Alternatives should provide opportunities for walking and hiking to the extent that such accommodations contribute to the overall mission of the park and do not negatively impact the fundamental historic integrity of the site. Recreational activities such as horse back riding, bicycle riding, skate boarding, kite flying, sun bathing, sledding, and cross country skiing represent some of the recreational activities considered inappropriate in any alternative because of their potentially negative impact to the historic scene.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about parking facilities at the park:

1. Need more parking at park.
2. Need to add a parking lot.
3. Can park boundaries be expanded to accommodate additional parking?
4. Is mass transit a possible solution for parking shortage?
5. Visitors don't want to see cars from the house.
6. Visitors would like to drive up to the house or park closer to the house.
7. Theatre and local businesses also need more parking - parking problem is not just a park problem but rather a community wide problem which will continue to worsen over time.

Discussion: A chronic parking shortage exists at the park. The situation is aggravated when cars parked by early arriving visitors intent on a walking experience displace later arriving visitors who wish to take the interpretive house tour. When the parking lot is full, visitors often elect to park on the shoulder of Little River Road which can be hazardous during periods of high traffic volume.

A shared parking agreement has existed for over 20 years that allows overflow parking in the nearby parking lot of the Flat Rock Playhouse. That resource, however, has become less

available for visitor use because of an expanded performance schedule at the Playhouse.

Planning Guidance: It is clear that too few parking spaces exist to support parking demand for both local and out of town visitors. The situation is sure to worsen as more visitors come to the park. Proposed alternative management concepts must explore possible solutions to help resolve the parking shortage.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about increased access to information and artifacts associated with the Sandburg story:

1. Need to add a visitors center with museum.
2. Need better facilities to show artifacts - need more exhibit space.
3. Create a Carl Sandburg library or literature center. Create a Carl Sandburg institute for continuing education and study.
4. Can some of the historic structures be adapted for other appropriate uses?
5. Are other sale locations possible within the park to generate additional opportunities to sell Carl Sandburg related literature and interpretive materials?

Discussion: Comments indicate a desire for greater access to Sandburg related artifacts and manuscripts currently in curatorial storage at the park. Comments also indicate a common acknowledgment of the potential benefit to interpretive and educational programs that greater access to these resources would create. Additional points of sale for Sandburg literature and related products are seen as beneficial from the standpoint of increasing access to information about artifacts and manuscripts in the museum collection. The central question of this discussion seems to be determining an appropriate way to provide access while continuing to protect and preserve sensitive resources.

Planning Guidance: The planning team recognizes the potential benefits of increasing access to information and artifacts contained in the museum collection of the park and the need for proper protection and preservation of those resources. While specific program recommendations are beyond the scope of this plan, potential concepts should identify support elements that facilitate increased access to museum artifacts and manuscripts. In particular, the suitability and feasibility of increasing the number of interpretive and educational venues should be thoughtfully considered.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about the location of the amphitheater:

1. Is the amphitheater located in the most appropriate place?
2. Does the park really need an amphitheater?

3. Is the existing amphitheater located too close to the House?

Discussion: While the existing amphitheater has been in use for many years, the structure is officially classified as temporary. There have been suggestions that the proximity of the amphitheater to the main house disturbs the interpretive experience during periods when particularly loud or active programs are occurring.

Planning Guidance: The amphitheater plays an important role in implementing the park's interpretive program and should not be eliminated. Proposed alternative concepts should explore the possibility of finding a more suitable and feasible location for the facility.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about visitor service facilities at the park:

1. Access to bathrooms are a particular problem for visitors.
2. Need to add a restaurant or food service opportunity at park.

Discussion: While the existing trailer comfort station near the main house has been in its current location for many years, it is still officially classified as a temporary structure. There is a need to upgrade the facility to better meet the personal needs of visitors. In addition, several comments about the possibility of making some form of refreshment available at the park were voiced during scoping.

Planning Guidance: The need to improve the existing comfort station is clear. The addition of bathroom facilities to historic structures is problematic due to the particularly invasive nature of this type of renovation.

A restaurant or other food service opportunity was considered inappropriate for inclusion in any alternative because of its potential impact on the historic scene and a desire to avoid duplication of visitor services that can be more efficiently provided by private businesses in the local community.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about resource conditions, maintenance, and security of park facilities:

1. More visitors will have significant impact on condition of grounds and historic resources - there will be more wear and tear on them.
2. Entrance points are uncontrolled - could be a security and maintenance problem.
3. Day use designation as described in old Master Plan may be out of date - people use the park in evening.
4. Can the expected increase in visitation be translated into additional opportunities to more effectively preserve, manage, make accessible park resources.

Discussion: Promoting the Sandburg story to more visitors increases opportunities to strengthen public and private support for the park which could be translated into additional financial resources to preserve, manage, and make them accessible. The management challenge of increased visitation is limiting the exposure of significant cultural and natural resources to overuse in ways that do not undercut support for the park or inhibit its ability to accomplish interpretive and educational goals.

Planning Guidance: Sensitive park resources must not be impaired. Proposed alternative actions will protect park resources and seek to maximize any potential benefits increased interest in park resources may have on its ability to protect and manage them.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about the importance of the park to local and regional economies:

1. Plan should promote parks standing as a tourist destination and important economic contributor to the local economy.
2. Marketing and visitor management important to success of park and local economy. There is a symbiotic relationship between local businesses and park.
3. Increasing length of time visitors stay at park - increasing the average length of visit may help the local economy by enticing people to spend the night in the local area and see additional Flat Rock and Hendersonville attractions

Discussion: The park is a significant contributor to the local economy as a tourism destination and relies on its good relationship with local businesses to provide visitor services like food and lodging. Important partnering opportunities exist to achieve common goals and objectives.

Planning Guidance: Proposed management alternatives should support a continued good relationship with local businesses and promote additional partnership opportunities. GMP should not recommend providing visitor services that can be more efficiently delivered by businesses in the local economy.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about local community development issues:

1. Surrounding community will continue to develop a more suburban/urban character over the next 20 years.
2. Visual connection between park and community is important.
3. Views of adjacent homes need to be screened from park.
4. Can park boundaries be expanded to accommodate donations of open space?
5. Any future developments outside the currently authorized boundary of the park should be sensitive to the historic character of the Village of Flat Rock.

6. Demographics of community will remain predominantly wealthy and retired.
7. Availability of open space will continue to be a community issue over the next 15 years.
8. Population growth expected to continue at 5% per year over the next 20 years.

Discussion: The surrounding area has become a popular retirement community and continues to grow at a steady rate. This growth has affected the character of the surrounding community and caused it to become more suburban in nature.

Planning Guidance: Proposed alternative actions should acknowledge and compliment the goals of local government and citizens to maintain an appropriate level of community development.

The following comments reflect thoughts and concerns about sharing the Sandburg story with people beyond the boundaries of the park:

1. Sandburg story is a draw for intellectual and academic based activities.
2. Sandburg literature is going out of print - low sales of books and less interest in Carl Sandburg on a national level are contributing factors. Would increased access and exposure to the Sandburg story help this situation?
3. Can Sandburg story be told effectively outside the boundaries of the park? Is the park the most suitable vehicle to tell that story or should this be a project for another organization? Are outreach programs a possibility?

Discussion: There was significant input during scoping from people who identified a broad range of opportunities to tell the Sandburg story beyond the boundaries of the park.

Planning Guidance: Alternative management strategies should explore possibilities that allow the Sandburg story to be told to a broader audience. The scope of these concepts should range from conservative to visionary in order to better gauge the advantages and disadvantages of various courses of action.

### **Comments more appropriately addressed by other plans:**

Certain comments and concerns received during scoping relate to issues more appropriately addressed in other planning or implementation documents. Those comments are referenced to the plan in which they would most likely be addressed in the following paragraphs.

The following comments would be more appropriately addressed in a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan.

1. Tour group sizes should not exceed 15 people per group.
2. Don't use audio tours to replace live interpreters.

3. Music is an important interpretive tool. Would like to see more music-oriented programs.
4. Need more 4H/agricultural activities and programs.
5. Event programming is important to keep local population involved with the park over a long period of time. Need lots of special programs and events to keep people interested and involved.
6. Tours describing historical landscape features might be popular.
7. Tell the whole story of the site - the Memminger and Smyth stories are important too.
8. Oral histories should be recorded and made available for use by public.
9. More poetry readings at amphitheater.
10. More programs on Carl Sandburg as a social activist.
11. More children's programs - more educational programs in general for children.
12. More advanced notice of special events would be nice.
13. Coordinated programs with Carl Sandburg birthplace in Galesburg might be successful.
14. Community concerts and other activities at night might be incorporated into park program.
15. Tell more of the Mrs. Sandburg story.
16. More education programs are desired.
17. Multigenerational contact is important for young and old visitors - an important part of the visitor experience that is sometimes overlooked.
18. Park is viewed by some as being exclusive - less wealthy and younger people may feel out of place due to the intensity of use by local residents who are predominantly wealthy and retired.
19. The goat herd should be expanded.
20. Label the trees and flowers with their botanical and common names
21. Need more brochures on park and its programs

Discussion: The number of comments received about this topic indicate there is much interest and support for the interpretive programming efforts of the park. While specific program recommendations are beyond the scope of this plan, proposed management concepts should be mindful of the great value visitors and staff place on interpretive and educational programs and look for opportunities to support and promote those efforts.

The following comment would be more appropriately addressed in a Cultural Landscape Report.

1. Gardens need to be restored.
2. Keep the standard for maintenance of the grounds high.
3. Poison Ivy is a real problem at the park.



Discussion: Specific recommendations about the priority of or design of historic gardens or landscape maintenance techniques are not addressed in a GMP. Some general guidance may be provided regarding this issue in prescriptive management zone descriptions.

The following comments would be more appropriately addressed in a Resource Management Plan.

1. Milk the goats and sell the milk.
2. No dogs allowed at park.
3. Dogs scare some visitors and their droppings are a health and maintenance concern.

Discussion: Not addressed directly in GMP. Some guidance could be provided in zone descriptions but specific recommendations regarding these comments are not made in a GMP. The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 2.15) provides specific regulations regarding the presence of pets in national parks.

The following comments would be more appropriately addressed in a Volunteer Management Plan.

1. Friends group needs support to get more volunteers.
2. Friends and volunteers are critically important to success of park.
3. Can a trust or other mechanism be developed to help keep Carl Sandburg works in print?

Discussion: Not addressed directly in GMP.

The following comments would be more appropriately addressed during a facility or landscape design study.

1. Amphitheater is too hot on a sunny day.
2. More trail side benches.

Discussion: Not addressed directly in GMP. Some general guidance may be provided regarding this issue in prescriptive management zone descriptions.

## Major Decision Points

The following five decision points were developed by studying and analyzing the list of GMP-related planning issues identified during the scoping process. Major decision points generally reflect areas where people's visions about the future management of the park are substantially different and represent types of questions that could potentially be answered differently by different stakeholders, depending on their point of view.

1. To what degree should the need or demand for recreation activity be accommodated at the park?
2. Can visitor use be adequately controlled with multiple access points?
3. To what degree can/should the park rely on Public/Private partnerships to procure the necessary resources to manage the park?
4. Can the park continue to provide quality visitor services and protect cultural and natural resources of the park within the existing boundary of the park? Is a boundary expansion needed, and if so, how much and for what purpose?
5. How extensive a role should the park play in interpreting the Sandburg legacy to people beyond the boundary of the park?

The alternatives presented later in this document express different management approaches that attempt to answer these questions.



